

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 AGR-05 INT-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6510

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USNATO 1470

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, EC, IC

SUBJECT: INITIAL ICELAND-EC FISHERIES CONTACT

REF: REYKJAVIK 0980

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR EAST TODAY BRIEFED CHARGE ON ICELANDIC-EC CONVERSATIONS JULY 29 IN BRUSSELS. GOI DEL HEADED BY TOMAS TOMASSON, GOI PERMREP TO NATO AND AMB TO BELGIUM, PRESENTED INITIAL NEGOTIATING POSITION WHICH GOT LESS THAN WARM RESPONSE FROM EC REPS.

2. TOMASSON SAID GOI WAS INTERESTED IN RECIPROCAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH EC AND PROPOSED IT BE BASED ON GOI INTEREST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COD OFF GREENLAND COAST, BLUEFISH OFF SCOTTISH WEST COAST,

AND HERRING OFF SHETLAND ISLANDS. GOI HAD READ OF PROPOSED BRITISH 50 MILE ZONE AND WAS CONCERNED AT BEING EXCLUDED FROM HERRING FISHERIES. IN RETURN TOMASSON PROPOSED COMMUNITY MEMBERS WOULD BE GIVEN QUOTAS FOR REDFISH AND ROCKFISH IN CLAIMED ICELANDIC FISHERIES ZONE. COMMUNITY REPS SAID THEY DOUBTED COMMISSIONERS WOULD CONSIDER GOI PROPOSAL AS ADEQUATE RECIPROCITY FOR CONTINUATION OF EC TARIFF CONCESSIONS.

3. TOMASSON SAID IN ICELANDIC VIEW, TARIFF CONCESSIONS HAD BEEN "PERMANENTLY INVOKED" AND GOI DID NOT ACCEPT INTERPRETATION THEY COULD BE REVOKED. EC REPS REPLIED THAT THEY HELD WITH DECISION OF EC THAT "CONDITIONS WERE AT PRESENT APPROPRIATE" FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCESSIONS. IMPLICATION WAS LEFT THAT THEY MIGHT NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR CONTINUATION.

4. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OVER LUNCH, TOMASSON MADE REMARK THAT WHILE GOI COULD NOT CONSIDER QUOTA FOR FOREIGN COD FISHING IN ICELANDIC WATERS, SHOULD STOCKS IMPROVE OVER PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS, HE THOUGHT SUCH QUOTA MIGHT AGAIN BECOME POSSIBLE. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND "OUR POLITICIANS MIGHT HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW."

5. THIS INCONCLUSIVE FIRST CONTACT WILL BE FOLLOWED UP BY VISIT TO ICELAND LATTER PART OF AUGUST OF TECHNICAL REP FROM EC TO EXPLORE GOI THINKING FURTHER.
MARTIN

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